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Newspapers as indicated.

STATUS OF USSR PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN FALL OF 1952

Petroleum Output and Reserves

Soviet petroleum output rose from 9 million tons in 1913 to 37,800,000 tons in 1950. During the postwar Five-Year Plan the petroleum industry of Maykop, Groznyy, and the western Okraine was completely restored and equipped. Intensive geological and surveying operations have uncovered large, new reserves of petroleum and gas and these have been prepared for exploitation.(1)

From the Baku area comes the report that the Leninneft', Kirovneft', Ordzhon-ikidzeneft', Kaganovichneft', Neftechalaneft', and Siazan'neft' trusts delivered tens of thousands of tons of above-plan petroleum during 8 months of 1952.(2)

The Kirovneft' Trust completed the 9-month plan ahead of schedule. Since the beginning of 1952, this trust has increased its active reserves by 121 oil wells, its daily output has gone up 4 percent and production costs have dropped 2.3 percent below the plan per ton of petroleum. Workers of al fields No 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 have achieved particularly good results. The Kaganovichneft' Trust also completed the 9-month plan ahead of schedule. Oil fields No 1, 3, and 4 were outstanding.(3)

A number of baku petroleum trusts and many oil fields are performing unsatisfactorily the tasks assigned the petroleum industry by the party and the government. Among the lagging trusts are the Molotovneft', Buzovnyneft', Azizbekovneft', Stalinneft', and Kobystanneft' trusts which owe the country much petroleum. Other laggards are the Gyurgyanneft' and the Artemneft' trusts and the Bukhta Il'ich oil field of the Azmorneft' Association.(4)

Oil field No 6 of the Buzovny Trust has been lagging since the beginning of 1952. Its August performance was particularly bad when it fulfilled the plan for petroleum extraction only 96 percent.(5)

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The Tatar ASSR reports that its petroleum industry considerably exceeded the 1952, 9-month plan, and that the average daily output for September 1952 was much higher than the 1950 level. Petroleum workers of the Tatar ASSR had pledged to deliver 100,000 tons of above-plan petroleum during 1952 and they fulfilled their obligations by the beginning of the Party Congress.(6)

On the other hand, the petroleum industry of the Georgian SSR is operating unsatisfactorily. The Gruzugol' Trust has not yet raised its performance to the prewar level.(7)

The Changyr-Tash oil field of the Kirgiz SSR is exceeding its quota considerably and the second section of the oil field leads all others, completing its quota for petroleum output 120 percent. (8)

The Trukmenneft' Association reports that its 1951 petroleum cutput was 42.6 percent higher than 1949 and four times greater than the 1940 output. The average daily yield was 186 percent of the average for 1949. However, a number of serious defects exist in the industry and these have led to the failure of the association to fulfill the 1952,8-month plan. The Nebitdagneft' Trust functioned particularly badly, fulfilling the 8-month plan only 97.4 percent. Of the five oil fields in the Turkmenneft' Association, only two completed their 8-month quotas. At present, petroleum workers are fulfilling their daily quotas. (9)

Well Drilling and Secondary Methods of Exploitation

Both the Azneft' and the Azmorneft' associations failed to fulfill the 1952 8-month plan.(4)

During the same period the Aznefterazvedka Association completed the plan for deep exploratory drilling only 91.8 percent, the plan for speed in drilling 89.4 percent, and the plan for number of wells completed by drilling 87 percent.

Seven drilling offices connected with the Leninneft', Buzovnyneft', Kaganovichneft', Azizbekovneft', Sigram'neft', Kirovneft', and Kirovabadneft' trusts have drilled 64,500 meters above the plan during 1952 and have given oil field workers more than 40 additional oil wells.(2)

In August 1951, a brigade of the Buzovny Drilling Office of Drilling Trust No 1 drilled at the unprecedented speed of 5,212 meters per machine-month. Workers of this office are continuing to do good work in 1952. During the first 8 months of the year they fulfilled the drilling plan 112.7 percent, increased the speed in drilling 14.9 percent, and delivered to the oil field workers 11 wells above the plan.

At the beginning of 1952, expert drillers of the Buzovny Office addressed an appeal to all drillers of the Azerbaydzhan SSR to strive to raise the performance of every drilling brigade to not less than 25,000 meters during the year. During 8 months of 1952, one brigade had drilled 18,645 meters; a second brigade, 17,613 meters; a third, 17,398; a fourth. 17,263; and a fifth. 17,217.(10)

The Off-Shore Exploitational Drilling Office reported that it has completed the 11-month plan on 15 September, 10 days earlier than it had promised. The extensive introduction of the forced method in drilling off-shore oil wells has permitted the drillers to increase their speed 18 percent per machine-month above plan, to reduce costs of drilling, and to save the state millions of rubles.(11)

The Gruzugol' Trust reports a poor performance in exploratory drilling. If fulfilled the plan only 77.7 percent in 1949, 85.5 percent in 1950, 98 percent in 1951, and 74.6 percent in the first 7 months of 1952.(7)

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Expert drillers of the Tuymazaburneft' Trust of the Bashneft' Association have completed an extensive experiment in drilling oil wells by the turbodrilling method. Several of them, employing the forced method, achieved the drilling speed of 1,200 meters per machine-month under difficult geological conditions although the planned speed was only 550 meters per machine-month. Approximately 90 percent of the oil wells in the Belinneft' Association have now been converted to the turbodrilling method.

Results of operations during 8 months of 1952 have shown that the turbo-drilling method can produce excellent results also in Turkmenistan. A drilling brigade working in well No 697 in this area achieved a mechanical speed of 4.6 meters per hour and a speed of 700 meters per machine-month; in drilling well No 689 a speed of 5.3 meters per hour and 784 meters per machine-month was achieved. At the same time, a brigade working at well No 655 by the rotary method was able to achieve a speed of only 3.6 meters per hour and 491 meters per machine-month. (12)

Secondary methods of exploitation are being employed in 20 oil wells of oil field No 7 of the Stalinneft: Trust by pumping compressed air into the deposit. Ten of these wells are in the deep-well pump section and the output of this section increased 196 tons per month after secondary methods had been employed here. The daily output of some wells almost doubled. It is estimated that well No 2213 has been yielding 3 additional tons of petroleum per day since compressed air has been introduced into the deposit.(13)

In 1952 five water-purifying installations were put into operation in the oil fields of the Azneft' Association in connection with the use of secondary methods of exploiting petroleum deposits, and the number of areas adopting secondary methods of exploitation doubled. Offices for secondary methods of exploitation have been set up in eight petroleum trusts and sections for the same purpose have been organized in seven trusts.(14)

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